

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06998 271105Z

50

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 OMB-01 PRS-01

RSR-01 /053 W

----- 061610

R 271000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 675

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6998

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN SITUATION

SUMMARY: PRIMIN BHUTTO INDICATED THAT HE IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCOMMODATION WITH NAP IN BALUCHISTAN DESPITE FACT THAT KEY BALUCH NAP LEADERS WERE RECENTLY TAKEN UNDER ARREST. BUT PROSPECT SEEMS DIM FOR AN ACCOMMODATION ALONG LINES DISCUSSED BETWEEN BHUTTO AND NAP LAST JUNE. END SUMMARY

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM AT HIS LARKANA HOME AUGUST 26, PRIMIN BHUTTO BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF RECENT ARRESTS BY BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL GOVT OF THE THREE NAP LEADERS BIZENJO, MENGAL AND MARRI. HE REFERRED TO HIS BELIEF THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY THE APPARENT FAILURE OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN IN JUNE TO FIND AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE BALUCH NAP LEADERS. I ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF HIS BELIEF. BHUTTO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06998 271105Z

WENT ON TO RECOUNT WHY HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH NAP

HAD BROKEN DOWN. MENGA (FORMER BALUCH CHIEF MINISTER) HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT BHUTTO'S WORD THAT BASIC CHANGES WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT UPON BHUTTO'S RETURN IN LATE JULY FROM HIS THEN-SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE US; MENGAL HAD ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE ACTIVELY TO RESIST THE BHUTTO REGIME PENDING THE PROMISED ACCOMMODATION. WHILE BHUTTO WAS IN EUROPE IN MID-JULY ENROUTE TO THE (LATER POSTPONED) US VISIT, THE UNITED POLITICAL OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD ISSUED A SET OF CATEGORIC DEMANDS AND ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH BHUTTO UNTIL THESE DEMANDS WERE MET. MEANWHILE, WHILE BHUTTO WAS STILL IN EUROPE, THE DAUD COUP IN KABUL HAD INTERVENED. SOME LEADING BALUCH NAP FIGURES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE REMARKS WELCOMING DAUD'S ADVENT AND NOTING THAT THEIR TASK WOULD NOW BE EASIER.

2. BALUCH GOVERNOR BUGTI, BHUTTO WENT ON, HAD BEEN INDICATING INCREASING RESTIVENESS OVER HIS OWN POSITION. (A KEY PROVISION OF THE JUNE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BHUTTO AND THE NAP LEADERSHIP WAS BUGTI'S REMOVAL FROM THE GOVERNORSHIP.) BUGTI HAD COMPLAINED THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE ACCUSING HIM OF PRIVATELY FAVORING THE PRO-SECESSION BALUCH LEAERS. HE HAD TOLD BHUTTO THAT THE BALUCH NAP HAD RUN BERSERK WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN CHARGE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE BEING OUSTED BY BHUTTO LAST FEB; AND THAT, UNLESS FIRM ACTION WERE NOW TAKEN AGAINST THEM, OTHER BALUCHIS WOULD BE TEMPTED TO RESPOND TO THE QTE ROMANTIC UNQTE APPEAL AND TAKE TO THE HILLS TO SNIPE AT THE GOVT. BUGTI HAD TALKED OF RESIGNING. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY GOVT'S DECISION TO ARREST BIZENJO, MENGAL AND MARRI. BHUTTO MADE A POINT OF NOTING THAT THE CHARGES OFFICIALLY LEVIED AGAINST THEM WERE OF A CRIMINAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL NATURE. THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL ACCUSATION THAT THEY WERE SEEKING SECESSION. BHUTTO HAD PERSONALLY GIVEN ORDERS THAT THE ARRESTED LEADERS SHOULD BE GIVEN QTE REST-HOUSE UNQTE DETENTION AND THEY SHOULD HAVE ALL FACILITIES INCLUDING RADIO, TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS. HE HAD HIMSELF GONE TO VISIT EX-GOVERNOR BIZENJO (WHO DETAINED AT POLICE TRAINING CENTER NOT FAR FROM ISLAMABAD) AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06998 271105Z

HAD TAKEN POLITICALLY CONCILIATORY LINE IN TALKING TO HIM. BHUTTO SAID HE WANTED TO LEAVE DOOR AJAR TO BE ABLE REOPEN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BALUCH NAP AND GOP.

3. I ASKED WHETHER THE ARRESTS ON CRIMINAL CHARGES WHICH HAD BEEN BLATANTLY PUBLICIZED WOULD NOT HAVE THE RESULT OF CLOSING DOOR TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. BHUTTO

REPLIED QTE NOT REALLY UNQTE. HE WOULD NOT MIND IF
MENGAL RESUMED THE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP IN QUETTA UNDER
AN ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH WAS DIS-
CUSSED IN JUNE.

4. COMMENT: BHUTTO IS OBVIOUSLY NOT ALTOGETHER HAPPY
OVER WAY THINGS ARE WORKING OUT IN BALUCHISTAN ALTHOUGH
HE DID NOT EVINCE ALARM OVER SITUATION THERE. IF HE
IS REALLY STILL INTERESTED IN AN ACCOMMODATION WHICH WOULD
REMOVE GOVERNOR BUGTI AND RESTORE NAP TO LEADERSHIP OF
PROVINCIAL GOVT IN COALITION WITH PPP, IT IS HARD TO

UNDERSTAND RECENT ARRESTS OF THE KEY BALUCH NAP LEADERS.
I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD BE SPRUNG
FROM DETENTION (WHETHER JAIL OR REST-HOUSE TYPE) TO
MOVE RIGHT BACK INTO SEATS OF PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY. THAT
CONTINGENCY TAXES THE CREDIBILITY OF NORMALLY
REASONABLE PERSON. BUT BHUTTO HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR HIS
POLITICAL SURPRISES AND WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSI-
BILITY OF HIS PULLING OFF ANOTHER ONE ON BALUCHISTAN
ALTHOUGH PROSPECTS OF AN EARLY POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION
SEEM DIM.
SOBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA06998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SOBER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730814/aaaaajvw.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BALUCHISTAN SITUATION SUMMARY: PRIMIN BHUTTO INDICATED THAT HE IS STILL
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005